

❖ Climbers With Christ Newsletter ❖

'Sharing the Good-news of Jesus Christ in the local alpine'

Summer - Fall 2005

C.O.L. Update By Blake McAnerin

Training biblically sound Christian outdoor leadership

"Pray... that He will send forth more laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:38

As Climbers With Christ's heart has always been to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make an eternal difference in the lives of others, we are always encouraging others to join us by equipping *them* to do the work of *the evangelist* themselves. Making available the tools and the *wisdom*, that Dad has entrusted to us over the years. One way in which we have been doing this is by training others to serve on the Ropes Course at Riverview Bible Camp.



In an effort to enable more groups have the opportunity to use the Ropes Course to build up their campers, we instituted a training program that allows for the individual camps to supply the workers and CWC to supply the guidance. This idea was put into practice last year as Life Center Church sent about 8 people to be trained. After that initial training day we decided to make the training more intensive and also impart, as much as we can, the *Spiritual* knowledge we've gained over the last 7 years of Ropes Course ministry.

This year, as many have read, we would not be available to facilitate all the Ropes Course opportunities at Riverview Bible Camp. In July, we began the **Christian Outdoor**

Leadership training (COL), starting out specifically with the Ropes Course events in mind. Our *purpose*... "We are dedicated to training up Biblically sound **Christian Outdoor Leadership**, meeting God's physical *and* spiritual standard for ministry." We are seeking to help other like minded disciples of Jesus use their gifts and talents for His glory, and to use those tools and knowledge of God's Word, to do for the body what we at Climbers With Christ have been doing over the years.

This year Life Center Church sent 10 workers to be trained for their Jr. High and High School camps. These same volunteers were also planning on assisting Fourth Memorial's church camps in using the Ropes course at Riverview. We were very encouraged to see some of last years students come back to get more training.

It's one thing to say "yeah, I *believe*"... another to act on that *belief*. One thing to say you *believe* the cable will hold you... another thing to get in a harness, put on a helmet, and step out. We say we *believe* God's word is true... it's another to *trust* your life to it and put some action to our *belief*. — C.O.L. manual Pg. 5

It has been requested that we continue these C.O.L. trainings into the fall in order that the Ropes Course ministry would be available to more groups using the Riverview facility. At this time, we have a C.O.L. training planned for September 9th and 10th and possibly one in October also. These will take place at Riverview, also.

It is our desire to continue making these C.O.L. trainings available into the future. We believe this "more in-depth, *Word based*" training helps the camps and various groups take ownership in their participation on the Ropes Course. It also allows their *leaders* greater insights in the lessons being taken home. It is our hope that these lessons in *faith* and *trusting God's Word*, may then be put into practice and built upon, in the ongoing discipleship of the Rope Course participants.

"I (we) get stoked training others to go share what Jesus can do for them, with others!" - Blake

Upcoming Events

- **Sept 24-25 Sprague Teen Challenge**
Riverview Bible Camp
- **Sept 30-Oct 1 Father-son Solid Rock**
4pm Fri- 8pm Sat Vantage (the Gorge)
- **Oct 14-15 Parent-daughter Solid Rock**
4pm Fri- 8pm Sat Vantage (the Gorge)
- **Nov C.O.L. Training**
Location to be announced
- **Nov First Presbyterian High Ropes**
10am-5pm Riverview Bible Camp
- **Dec CWC Year-end Board Meeting**
Final Meeting

Please note: Changes to Climbers With Christ Ministry
- Please take some time to read carefully and pray for us.

Onward and UPWARD

Major Route Revision Just Ahead

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." – Revelation 3:8

The door for the ministry of Climbers With Christ was clearly "opened" by the Lord. He has clearly blessed and sustained His ministry through CWC for fifteen years. Completely and faithfully, in season and out, without fail, with out lack or need, and without debt. Without the *need* of "support letters", fundraising, or drumming up funds, CWC and those who've involved themselves in the ministry here truly have not lacked "any good thing." We all *know* the verses, but few ever get the blessing that comes in seeing (up close and personal) the results of truly trusting in God's words. David knew... *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want... The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want (or lack) any good thing" (Psalms 23:1, 34:10)*. We truly have not lacked. Not only have we been perfectly and abundantly taken care of, but we've been able to **give** all of the ministry at CWC virtually for free.

Notice though, the scripture from Revelation 3 above... clearly this is God's doing. *"I (God) have"* done this, **and** no *"man"* can shut the door. God has *His seasons, His reasons* **and** His reasons *for* His seasons. One thing we've learned for certain in following Jesus thus far, is that His ways are NOT our ways, but His ways are *always* best. Over the last year we have sensed a change in "seasons" here at CWC. Though unsure as to just where God was going with the ministry of CWC, last December, we (the Board and Stan and Kristina), began to embrace some inevitable changes ahead, concerning Stan and Kristina's level of involvement. Gods calling on their lives, as parents, to train up seven followers of Jesus, and having been given the opportunity to give their children the best "training up" possible, coupled with their calling to begin a new fellowship in the Pend Oreille valley two years ago, meant their level of involvement definitely had to change. Stan's calling to share God's word each week and to "shepherd" their flock at home, and this new flock in Metaline, clearly must take priority.

Ron Hutchcraft recently talked of the need to apply the brakes when needed to avoid a crash. But if one neglects the clear warning signals of the *squeaky brakes* and *"cheater tabs"*, eventually one will push and pump the brakes to no avail, and a crash will be inevitable. Ron's exhortation was and is clear... *don't wait for the CRASH!* As much as we'd like to "hold the door open," God has been *applying the brakes*, both in Stan and Kristina's lives **and** here at CWC. A "major route change" is definitely ahead. We know that as God's seasons change and He closes certain doors, He at the same time, opens, and begins to open new ones. As a people called to trust completely in Him and to live by faith, these are the times where we get to draw ever closer to Him – which is what He created each and every one of us for!

Back in June, under the Lord's leading, the decision was made to dissolve the 501C3 ministry status of Climbers With Christ. This will take effect on December 31st of this year, 2005. Todd Pollock, who's served the last 8 years on the board at CWC, summed up and confirmed again for us what we all could see. Todd said quite matter-of-factly, "it is quite clear that this chapter in the Lord's book of our lives is closing... that the Lord's hand of blessing and provision for His work to get done through *this* vessel, has been lifted"

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

The decision to step back from CWC's ministry is, admittedly, a bit emotional at times (silly emotions??!). But, with (Stan) having just finished a series of messages on Marriage, Family, and the Church – a Biblical Perspective, those "feelings" are quickly *righted* with the truth of God's word, and confirmed and compounded by the facts that the 20th century Church is way off the mark² when it comes to making true disciples of Jesus of our own children, and ministering to the family as a unit. Again, with God's word so clear in these areas, the statistic and stories of "Christian" family's are truly shocking, heartbreaking, and stomach turning. Being a "para-church" ministry working with many many different churches, church leaders, and groups in the Northwest, we've gotten a pretty good look, and see that these statistics do reflect what's going on right here in Eastern Washington and the Northwest. BUT, praise Jesus... He's not bound by statistics! He WILL honor those who truly love Him, and honor Him by honoring His word and walking in obedience to Him. *"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed... Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (James 1:25, John 14:23)*.

Over the years, we at Climbers With Christ, have put out many "APB's" for servants. We've gotten lots of inquiries. Some have come and gone (always just when needed), and a handful have stayed and continued to serve along side over the years. Again, God has been perfect. **Blake and Sherice McAnerin** have taken steps in joining us that none else have "dared." As most of you know, they joined *full-time* about a year and a half ago, simply calling one day and sharing that God had called them to "join Climbers, that Blake was quitting Itronics, they were moving up to the Pend Oreille valley, and trusting that God was going to take care of the details."

For 17 months the Lord has been completely faithful in providing their every need. CWC has paid them a small yet sufficient salary that covers the basic costs of living. They will readily share with any who'll listen, story after story of God's provision for all their needs – and many times, *much more!* God has clearly led them to a new life of *complete* reliance upon Him. Blake and Sherice have also seen this change coming to CWC, as the Lord's doing. They too have seen the door closing as they've "climbed with us" over the last year and a half. Though it's a bit stretching for all of us "followers" at this time (Jesus promised us *this* too!), they are presently seeking the Lord's direction in future work for Blake and their specific calling in any continuing ministry of *future* "climbers with Christ" opportunities. This is quite foggy, as no one but the Lord knows what the months ahead will look like in much detail. They too, know that Jesus knows what He will do, and that it is completely safe and "good" to trust Him, and wait on Him in that place. Please continue to be in prayer for them in discerning God's plan for their future. They have shared that they know that they've been called to stay in the Pend Oreille Valley, and, along with continuing with the C.O.L. trainings, they are considering some possible Ropes Course and joint "Out" type ministry next year with Camp Riverveiw. Riverview's Ropes Course

is a great tool, and the camp could definitely use some specific stewardship of it - both in the physical maintenance of the course itself, AND the use of it spiritually.

Following is an excerpt from a recent letter from Stan to the board.

“As for the ministry of Climbers With Christ - at least as we've come to know it – Philippians 1:7 pretty well says it. **He** is faithful to perform (*bring to an end or accomplish*) that “which **He** hath begun.” It has been (except for the obvious heart pullings at times) so great to see the Lord have His way in bringing *this* chapter of our lives to a close. Also, it has been very reassuring to know that we were hearing Dad correctly back in December and again (even clearer) in June. The Lord has accomplished that which He intended to through CWC, again, at least *as we've known it*. He has been completely faithful to provide (in all ways) for those ministry opportunities He had put on our plate early in the year. And we've still a few outings in October to tend (a C.O.L.'s training and the Father-son and Parent-daughter outings). We want to “finish strong” and faithfully preach the Good news to all those He's entrusted to us and this ministry. It's been quite amazing to see that though there have been inquiries or seeming opportunities *to add more* outings in August and this month, God has clearly chosen *not* to bring either the servants or the funds. Not in any way due to a lack of prayer and phone calls and e-mails on the part of Blake. He (the Lord) is “bringing the plane in for a landing,” all in **His** perfect timing. As we all know so well, where God guides He also always provides. He has promised provision for our needs as we go where *He leads*, and do according to *His* words. He began “speaking” last December. He's not guiding CWC in *that* direction any more. He has called me **clearly** to the all consuming tasks of raising a godly family, and feeding a *different* “flock” His words each week.”

Over the past few years it's been increasingly on our heart here at CWC to help the churches *themselves* be more involved in their own discipleship process. Though the church in general is doing a less than good job of this, it *is* as it ought to be. We clearly see this move of the Lord at this time at CWC as an opportunity for this to happen even more. There are plenty of “qualified” servants in most, if not all, of the local fellowships. We want to continue to encourage individual churches to “use themselves” instead of turning so quickly to a para-church ministry. We really have **no biblical** mandate for this mindset within the church. We are praying about how we can continue to avail “group gear” for the body of Christ to use in the future. **An updated list of CWC gear available for check out to the body of Christ will likely be made available via mail or e-mail in the future. This gear, most likely, will include specific items such as harnesses, helmets, boots and climbing shoes, headlamps, compasses, snowshoes, snow pickets, ice axes, shovels, stoves, sleeping pads, tents, gloves, gaiters, and Nalgene bottles.** God's word again, shows us a perfect picture of how the Church ought, and can, work:

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them, that any of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked...” (Acts 4:32-34)

The CWC PO Box, and likely a web address, will remain in use for continued communication between “climbers with Christ” and the body of Christ. We'd like to continue to avail ministry helps (C.O.L. Manuals, Meat on the Mountain and Higher Ground Journals, and gear lists) and/or servants and “alpine loveslaves”, to the Church as a whole. Also, occasional Newsletters, updates, and places to serve in the local alpine. God has so definitely used this type of ministry in the past, and given us much to give back to His body. Blake is still praying about and considering how he might continue to serve in this capacity in the future.

It has been an INCREDIBLE (major understatement!) blessing to have co-labored with so many of you who've hiked, climbed, and walked with us over the years. Also for those of you who've served along side with us, and encouraged us along the way... we praise Jesus for you! There's an “encouragement file” in the very back of the CWC file cabinet that is quite full of “reminders” that our work is always for Jesus and Him alone, and that if we are simply faithful to do what He's called us to do, He WILL work. Those “reminders from Him” through many of you have, arrived in His perfect timing, many right when the battle to “Climb on” and share the “Goods” was very intense. Some have been read over and over. Someday, when we all get to that final Summit, you'll get to see all that we got to see because of your prayers and encouragement. Please continue to pray for us. That God would use CWC right to the very last, as we've still some great opportunities ahead with the always fruitful and *filling* Father-son and Parent-daughter outings at the Gorge, a few Ropes Courses, and C.O.L. trainings. Our foremost mission has remained unchanged from the day Jesus gave us life, and will continue on until He comes back or takes us home!

We're ALL followers, climbing with Christ, roped together by His Spirit, through His blood, taking one step at a time towards that Summit day with our King. Come soon Lord Jesus! Until that day, as long as He gives us life we'll *all* remain “climber's with Christ”...

“dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and making an eternal difference in the lives of others!”

God is truly AWESOME! Keep the praise ON...and STAY IN THE WORD!

– Stan and Kristina and the Climbers With Christ family

Please return the enclosed flyer if you'd like to *continue* receiving any of the periodic mailings or updates.

Endnotes

¹ God has called us, as His followers, to always speak the truth in love, and give “a witness of the things which you (we) have seen” (Acts 26:16, Eph 4:14-18). We (Stan and Kristina) have spent quite a bit of prayer time and research in this area. With the lives and quite possibly the eternal destinies of our children in the balance, we share this for those that may be searching for truth in the area of training up children, or for those who've simply not checked the national scholastic and/or church statistics recently. We'd be glad to share what the Lord has shown us, with any of you involved in the work of training up children. Just drop us a note.

² WorldNetDaily, June 12, 2004 - “Baptists missing the Mark”. Cited A 2002 report by the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life that stated, “88 percent of children raised in evangelical homes leave church at the age of 18 never to return.” -This is only one of *many* sobering statistics and facts concerning the making of wholehearted disciples of Jesus in the American family and church, today. I (Stan) would love to share more motivation and encouragement in this area, with any of you. Again, drop me a note.

Prayer Peaks - July 2, 2005

*"If **My** people who are called by My name **will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land"*** (2 Chronicles 7:14) *emphasis added.*

What a great *and humbling* time it was! Again this year, we were *praying from the peaks* for this nation. Each one of us were blessed, *and humbled*, to be part of the giant *high and low alpine* prayer meeting held on July 2nd. One of the prayer times took place atop Abercrombie Mountain in north eastern Washington, and the other at the summit of Mount Rainier. The Lord Jesus "treated" all the members of both prayer teams, in allowing them *all* to make it to the "high points" to pray. Coupling a time of repentance and prayer, with some time in the Word, we can trust that God did great things on that day. Though we'll probably have to wait until we get *home* to find out the complete fruit of our labors on the mountains that day. God knows, and that alone was and is satisfaction enough for those called to pray that day.

We're hoping to continue yoking with the Prayer Peaks ministry, and spend some more time on our knees in the high *or low* alpine in 2006. The corporate day of prayer is scheduled yearly for the Saturday prior to the 4th of July. We plan four days on the mountain for the Rainier Prayer Peaks, with the team being limited to twelve. We normally choose the Standard DC Route for this climb (though this year we ascended the Ingram Glacier *direct route*, once around on the north-east side of the mountain). The Eastern Washington, Abercrombie Mt, prayer summit is a single *day* trip and has plenty of room for all who desire to take part. **Please contact soon us if you think you'd like to be part of this next year.** You can find out more about the Prayer Peaks Ministry at: prayerpeaks.org

Dan Ferguson. First nights meal on his way up Rainier to pray for our nation.



Bob Davis heading for some rest at the "flats"



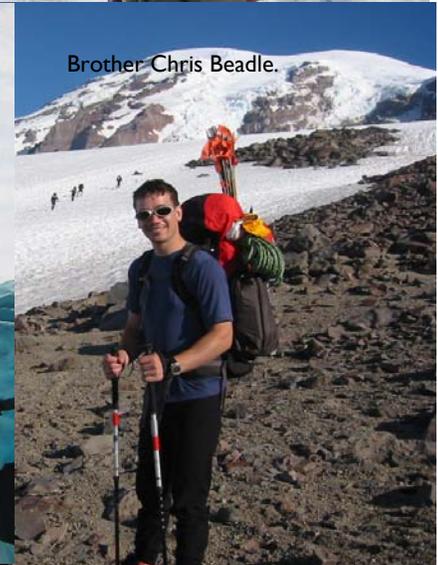
Pete Whittekiend and Chris, shedding a layer at 12,500 feet.



Ben Bersegal and Stan enjoying the sun's warmth at 12,500' after a very chilly summit prayer meeting.



Brother Chris Beadle.



Still Want To Go HIGHER??!

Over the years we've had requests for a Guides and Loveslaves outing that would accommodate a more "extended fellowship, bonding, and climbing time" for CWC servants and outing leadership. If you would be interested in being part of this type of "time out", please **WRITE US** and let us know. Give us a few of your top location picks for a 2-4 day outing of this sort. Winter... early spring... or early summer? Technical (climbing) and/or non-technical (hiking)? Give us some input.



RIVERVIEW ROPES COURSE REQUIRMENTS

If Climbers With Christ has facilitated your High Ropes course at Riverveiw Bible Camp in the past, be sure that you contact Tim Mason (Riverveiw Director) as soon as possible, and inform him of your desire to use the Ropes Course. We will NOT be *personally* facilitating many of the camps that we have in the past. Our hopes are to help train *you* to facilitate the course and disciple your own campers. (See article on page one - **C.O.L.**). Each member of your High Ropes ministry team will need to have completed two days C.O.L. training prior to your camp. **This is a camp requirement**, so sign up soon. Tim will contact us and we'll set up some C.O.L. Training dates that will work for you.

Union Gospel "Goats" still going... Higher and DEEPER!

Higher on the mountain and deeper in God's Word. This July, the Mountain Goats headed for the high alpine again. As we drove across the state to Mount Baker we had no idea the amount of "meat" on the mountain that Jesus was about to deal us. Long time servant and CWC mountain love-slave, Chris Beadle was the vessel the Lord used to literally *shovel* us the "goods." Chris began working on the entirely new *Meat on the Mountain* journal early this year, which basically turned out to be an in-depth study of the first two chapters of Colossians. Talk about a treat! If one didn't bring his sword up the mountain on *this trip* he may as well have left everything else, too! There are very few "Jesus Freaking Alpiners" with as much love for the unaltered word of God as Chris. With the added blessing of him being a very skilled mountain guide, we were all truly blessed. Bob Davis and Stan rounded out the "cord of three strands", serving the other goats on the mountain, along with Lead Mountain Goat, UGM Chaplain Steve Slover. Along with the awesome sharpening sessions, Jesus dealt the eleven of us four days of blue skies, with only enough occasional clouds to keep us from getting fried, and then for summit weather He dealt us a starry alpine start, blustery winds, hail, snow on the summit, and buckets of rain halfway down the glacier to high camp, then clearing again for the hike out. What a gift!



Frank, Chris, John, Stan, Steve, Cliff, Reggie, and Bob Davis (camera) "Meet on the mountain" atop Mount Baker in July.

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

I am interested in:

- Being notified of future events, outings, C.O.L. trainings, and / or opportunities to continue to pray or serve in this type of ministry, and would also like to receive any future Newsletter of this sort.**
- I would like to be kept informed on how I might pray for the Busby family, and the continued ministry of Valley Christian Fellowship.**
(This would include being sent various CD's of Stan's messages and also receiving intermittent ministry letters and family updates)
- I would like to be put on the list to receive e-mail or written prayer requests and updates from the McAnerin Family.**
- Other** (CWC needs list, Mountain trip Journals or C.O.L. Manuals, Gear available for "check-out", Climbers With Christ Logo embroidery Information, Gear lists, Who are YOU Climbing With gospel tracts, etc.) _____

Please let us know ow can we be praying for YOU?? _____

WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND ENCOURAGEMENT ALL THESE YEARS! If you've any questions or concerns, Please drop us a line. Also, if you're ever in the Pend Oreille valley please let us know. PO Box 285 Metaline Falls Wa 99153.

A Word From the Wilderness

Jesus is so good! His Word so perfect. With Joshua just turning twelve and the new fellowship 2 years "old" next month, God has blessed us incredibly. There have been and continue to be great stretchings for all those who desire to follow Jesus, and we've experienced plenty... but where else would we go?! He not only "has the words of eternal life" but *IS life!*

For the past fifteen years God has given us the opportunity to share His word and to summit some "good sized" mountains - pretty much monthly. As we've come to know Him over the years though, we've realized He's never finished in His process of teaching His kids to trust Him MORE! And He is so perfect in *preparing us* (most times unbeknownst to us) for the greater challenges and summits He's taking us on to.

Jesus has now given me the awesome privilege of sharing His word and "summitting" with Him every week! Sharing (and preparing to share) God's



"Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" - Jesus



STILL climbing with Jesus... Abigail 2, Katei 9, Kristina, Jacob 3 mos, Joshua 12, dad, Alicia 5, Amber 3, Rachele 6!!

word with His people has opened my eyes ever more to the reality that to *lead*, one must truly *follow first!* And just as with heading for a summit at one o'clock in the morning, after only 2 hours of sleep, His grace truly is sufficient, not simply to get us through, but to do WAY more than we could ever imagine! Praise Him!!

We look forward to sharing the continuing "God's Awesome's" as He takes us and our family *higher and deeper*. Keeping in mind that the way "up" in God's kingdom is, in this world's eyes, the way down. What better way to close this chapter, then with the words He spoke when He first called us to, "come and *climb with ME!*"...

"their great ones exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you... whosoever of you will be (greatest) shall be servant of all."
Keep Climbing with Jesus! Stan

Please return this to: Stan and Kristina Busby or Climbers With Christ

PO Box 285

Metaline Falls WA 99153

Response requested!

...we would love to hear from you!